

# *UNEXPECTED DATE*

HAL AMES



Garth had not expected things to turn out the way they did. For him it was going to be a normal day. It started out like any other day.

He got up and got dressed. He went to his kitchen and prepared a simple breakfast of eggs, toast, bacon, and coffee.

Garth was looking forward to his brother coming to help him. His brother had moved to the city to take a job as a school counselor, but every autumn he came to help with the harvest.

He gazed out the window at the rising sun as it turned the fields of corn a bright color of yellow. It wouldn't be long before he would be harvesting the corn. Then he would be very busy.

As Garth was looking out the window, he saw a newer black car turn onto his drive. Dust flew up behind the car as it neared his house.

Garth set his coffee cup down on the table and went to the door to meet whoever was in the car.

Just as he opened the door, the car pulled up in front of his house. The car's windows were dirty from his dusty road, so it was difficult to see who was in the car.

When Garth reached the first step of his porch, the door of the car opened and out stepped the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. He felt awkward as he stared at her as

she approached the porch.

“Are you Garth Smith” the beautiful lady asked.

“Yes, I am,” Garth answered.

“Hi, I’m Jillian Rogers. I am a representative the Agri-Corn Company and I have some information I would like to give to you,” Jillian introduced herself.

“Come on in. I have some fresh coffee. Would you like some?” Garth invited Jillian to enter the house while he held the door open.

They went to the kitchen, sat down at the table, and began to talk.

Jillian began the conversation, “Mr. Smith....”

“Please call me Garth. Mr. Smith was my dad,” Garth interrupted with a smile.

“OK, Garth,” Jillian grinned. “We have a new product we would like you to test for us. It is a new organic fertilizer that has proven to increase production of corn by up to twenty-five percent.” Jillian explained why she had come to his house.

Garth did not hear a word. He was too distracted by her appearance.

“Does that sound good to you?” Jillian asked.

“Ah... yeah. I guess,” Garth said a little surprised.

“What do you think; would you like to try our new fertilizer?” Jillian asked.

“I suppose that would be alright,” Garth answered still not really listening to what she was talking about.

Garth thought for a moment, and then he said something he didn’t plan, “Would you like to go out to dinner with me tonight?”

“Dinner? Ah ah..... I guess so. What would you like to do?” Jillian answered, surprised at the question.

“Can we meet at Lilly’s Diner on route fifty-six, say at six o’clock?” Garth suggested.

“OK, we can talk about your order over dinner. That sounds good. I will meet you at six,” Jillian responded as she put her papers back into her bag.

“Thanks for the coffee,” she said, as she smiled.

Garth showed her to the door and waved as she drove off.

All day long, all Garth could think about was the lady in the black car. He didn't finish all the things he had planned to do. He thought it would be OK to do them the next day. He spent a long time preparing for the dinner. He took a long shower, picked out the clothes he was going to wear and practiced what he was going to say to her when he saw her again.

Garth had never had a girlfriend. He liked to be alone most of the time.

On most Friday nights, he would go to town, eat dinner at Lilly's Diner and then join his friends at the town center to listen to music. He wasn't very good with the ladies, since he was so shy.

He surprised himself that he had even asked Jillian to dinner.

Garth left at five-thirty so he would not be late. He pulled up in front of Lilly's Diner and took a deep breath. He now felt funny about inviting her to this place. Everyone knew him here. He never came to the diner on Wednesdays, so they would be very surprised to see him.

He walked up to the door and when he walked in, Lilly, the owner, greeted him.

"Hey Garth! What are you doing here on a Wednesday? Boy, do you look sharp. Got a date tonight?" Lilly teased Garth.

"Kind of like that," Garth replied shyly.

Everyone in the place looked over at Garth in surprise.

Garth's face turned red as he slid into his normal booth.

Sally the waitress walked up to the table and asked, "Can I take your order?"

"Just give me two menus please. I will order later," Garth said, not looking up and still red in the face.

As he sat, he began to get more nervous. He was having second thoughts about the whole thing.

Sally brought the menus and handed them to him.

Garth hid behind his menu so he didn't have to look at the eyes that were staring at him.

After a few minutes, he looked over his menu and standing next to the table was

Jillian.

Garth jumped up, and hit his knee on the edge of the table.

He didn't yell out, but in obvious pain, he said, "Sit down Jillian. It's nice to see you this evening."

"Are you OK?" Jillian asked as she slid into the booth.

"I will be in a moment," Garth responded, holding his knee and once again red in the face.

Garth was embarrassed at his clumsiness in front of Jillian and all his friends.

"Is this a good place to eat? I've never been here before," Jillian asked, as she looked around at the diner.

"Yeah, I come here pretty often. I usually get the special. I'm not sure what that is tonight. I usually only come here on Fridays before going to the town center to listen to music with my friends. Lilly is really nice and she's a great cook," Garth said while still rubbing his knee.

Jillian picked up the menu and turned the pages looking at the meals.

Looking up at Garth, Jillian smiled, "I think I will have the special. Pork chops sound great. I think I'll have a Coke as well."

Then she set the menu onto the table.

Garth waved at Sally to come take their order.

"Are you ready to order?" Sally asked smiling at Garth.

"Yes. We would both like the special. I would like coffee and the lady would like a Coke," Garth gave the order to Sally.

"Who's the lucky lady?" Sally asked as she first winked at Garth and then smiled at Jillian.

"This is Jillian Rogers. She is a representative of..... Ah, sorry who are you with again?" Garth asked.

"I'm with Agri-Corn," Jillian answered.

Sally walked away, but all eyes in the diner were on Garth and his guest.

Jillian took out her papers and began to talk about the organic fertilizer. Garth

couldn't take his eyes off her.

Jillian explained the product, the cost and what Garth should expect as a result of using the product.

Garth just nodded his head, not really listening.

Dinner came and then the conversation changed to more personal things. They talked for three hours. They laughed and shared stories about friends and family. Garth had never been so relaxed with a woman before.

"Oh, my goodness, I didn't realize that it was so late. I have to get home!" Jillian said as she looked at her watch.

"Can I stop by next week and bring the papers for you to sign?" Jillian asked.

"Of course, that will be great." Garth answered.

"I'm sorry I have to go. My husband is waiting for me. He hates it when I have such late appointments. See you next week," Jillian said.

She then slid out of the booth, said goodbye to Sally and Lilly, and left the diner.

Lilly went over to Garth.

"So, how did it go?" Lilly asked.

Garth gave a short answer, "She's married."

With that, he walked out of the diner and drove home.



**VOCABULARY:** (*Match the word to its definition*)

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|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. gaze _____           | a. natural, not using chemicals |
| 2. awkward _____        | b. small restaurant             |
| 3. organic _____        | c. discounted daily menu item   |
| 4. fertilizer _____     | d. sales person                 |
| 5. diner _____          | e. look at something intently   |
| 6. special _____        | f. talking between two people   |
| 7. clumsy _____         | g. set time for a meeting       |
| 8. representative _____ | h. uncomfortable, unsure        |
| 9. appointment _____    | i. food for plants              |
| 10. conversation _____  | j. uncoordinated                |

**TRUE / FALSE:**

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|--|-------|
| 1. Garth Lived on a farm.                              | T / F |
| 2. Garth's sister was coming to help harvest the corn. | T / F |
| 3. The lady arrived in a new blue car.                 | T / F |
| 4. Garth offered the lady some coffee.                 | T / F |
| 5. The lady's name was Jennifer.                       | T / F |
| 6. Garth had many girlfriends.                         | T / F |
| 7. They met at Lilly's Diner.                          | T / F |
| 8. Jillian worked for Agri-Corn.                       | T / F |
| 9. They both ordered the 'Special'.                    | T / F |
| 10. Garth was married.                                 | T / F |

**MULTIPLE CHOICE:**

1. What did Garth grow on his farm? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) potatoes
  - b) coffee
  - c) tomatoes
  - d) corn
  
2. What color was Jillian's car? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) blue
  - b) black
  - c) green
  - d) brown
  
3. Where did they meet to eat? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) Lilly's Restaurant
  - b) Willy's Diner
  - c) Jillian's Café
  - d) Lilly's Diner
  
4. Who did Jillian work for? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) Agri-Fertilizer
  - b) Organic Fertilizer
  - c) Agri-Corn
  - d) Herself



**COMPREHENSION:** *(Write a complete sentence to answer the question.)*

1. What did Garth have for breakfast?

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2. What was he going to do in the autumn with his brother?

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3. Who drove up in the car?

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4. What product did Jillian sell?

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5. Where did they meet for dinner?

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6. What did Garth and Jillian order for dinner?

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7. What was name of the waitress?

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8. What did Garth usually do on Fridays?

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9. What happened to Garth's knee?

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10. Why did Jillian have to leave?

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